

WE ARE FREE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, from the hellish streets where Iranians demand freedom, voices arise to pray for deliverance and liberty; but, elsewhere, safely ensconced in freedom, others argue for appeasement and "neutrality." We must choose wisely between these competing voices and visions, lest we betray our allegiance to liberty.

Some voices allege America's support of Iranian democracy demonstrators harms their cause, strengthens the regime, increases the repression, and, once the freedom seekers are slaughtered, precludes "good" relations with the murderous mullahs.

Their siren song is wrong. Despite pronouncements, America has not intervened, the mullahs publicly accuse us of it, their illegitimate puppet Ahmadinejad demands our prostration at the regime's feet, and all the while, the regime butchers innocents.

□ 1945

On June 24, CNN recorded a call from a terrified Iranian girl, who told of democracy demonstrators being hacked with axes, shot or thrown from bridges. She pleaded: "You should stop this. You should help the people of Iran who demand freedom. You should help us. It's time to act." She was pleading to America. She was pleading to us.

Once, another generational chance for freedom was seized, as Soviet dissident and gulag prisoner Natan Sharansky attests, "We developed our own tapping language to communicate with each other between the crawls of our cells. We had to develop new communication methods to pass on this great, impossible news.

"Reagan dared to call of the great Soviet Union an evil empire. That moment made it impossible for anyone in the West to continue closing their eyes to the real nature of the Soviet Union.

"It was one of the most important, freedom-affirming declarations, and we all instantly knew it. For us, that was the moment that really marked the end for them, and the beginning for us. The beginning of a new revolution, a freedom revolution. Reagan's revolution."

As for voices clamoring for a "grand bargain" with Iran's inhumane regime if it clings to power, Sharansky warns: "How a government treats its own people cannot be separated from how that government could be expected to treat other countries." How did the regime treat the family of Neda Agha-Soltan, the student it shot in the streets? Her state executioners refused to tender Neda's body to her family; buried her without a funeral; banned all signs of mourning; and forced her family to flee from their Tehran home.

To defeat such a regime, Sharansky offers Reagan's example: "Ronald

Reagan had the moral clarity to understand the truth, and the courage both to speak the truth and to do what needed to be done to support it."

What concrete actions can we take today to aid the Iranian people's march to freedom?

We must increase funding for Radio Farda and other democracy building programs to provide the Iranian people with the free flow of information and communications in their struggle to be free.

The President must use his full authority under the Iranian Sanctions Act to deter companies from investing in Iran's energy sector.

We must place column 2 tariff rates on Iran's remaining exports to the United States. We must pass the Global Online Freedom Act to prevent American companies from assisting foreign governments, including Iran, from censoring and monitoring their people on the Internet. We must pass the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act and the Iran Threat Reduction Act to embargo the flow of refined fuel to and increase the pressure upon the regime.

The President must prohibit regime members from entering the United States of America.

We must seek a United Nations Security Council resolution denouncing the regime; demanding a new, internationally monitored election; and tightening the current U.N. sanctions against the regime until this election occurs and its outcome's integrity verified.

We must work with American labor organizations to establish a support fund for Iranian workers striking in protest of the regime.

Finally, we must link all of our relations with Iran, and with those nations abetting the regime's perpetuation in defiance of its people's freedom to human rights.

If we pale and fail to take these measures, we will be haunted by the cries of the oppressed Iranians abandoned to preserve our neutrality in this time of moral crisis.

But, when we act, we will expand freedom to the oppressed and enslaved; and ensure it for our children and ourselves. Only then will we have honorably performed our duty to liberty by guaranteeing generations of Americans and Iranians may proclaim, "We are free."

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

JUNE 26, 2009.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC,
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER,
U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This letter is to alert you that I have sent a letter to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California

informing him that I will be resigning as the United States Representative for the 10th Congressional District of California effective immediately.

In May, I had the distinguished honor of being nominated by President Obama to serve as Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. Keeping nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists, making sure other countries do not obtain them and, one day, I hope, ridding the world of these terrible weapons, has become my passion and, I hope, my life's work.

It has been an immense pleasure working with you Madam Speaker. I owe you, and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, a debt of gratitude for your leadership, guidance and dedication. I eagerly await the opportunity to work with you in my new role with the Obama Administration.

Sincerely,

ELLEN O. TAUSCHER.

JUNE 26, 2009.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC,
Governor ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER,
California State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA.

DEAR GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER: On May 5th, I was nominated by President Obama to serve as Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. Therefore I am resigning my position as the United States Representative for the 10th Congressional District of California effective immediately.

Thirteen years ago, the people of California's 10th Congressional district bestowed upon me the privilege of serving as their representative in Congress. It has been a remarkable period marked by tremendous challenges and remarkable achievements. I take great pride, along with my distinguished colleagues in the California delegation, in working to make our communities safer, California more prosperous and our nation more secure. No matter where I am serving in government, I always will remember those who sent me to Washington and I always will be grateful for their support and the trust they placed in me.

I also wanted to thank you for your leadership. It has been a pleasure to work with you and your staff and I look forward to continuing our productive relationship.

Sincerely,

ELLEN O. TAUSCHER.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER), the whole number of the House is 433.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN JAMES HALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOCCIERI) is recognized for 5 minutes.